

## THE WAR IN INVESTIGATION.

## TESTIMONY OF THE CHIEF QUARTERMASTER AT CAMP THOMAS.

He Says That General Officers Used Hospital Tents and That He Issued One to Gen. Breckinridge. He Said That He Issued One to Gen. Breckinridge. He Said That He Issued One to Gen. Breckinridge.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 5.—The War Investigation Committee held this morning and examined Col. J. G. O. Lee, Chief Quartermaster at Camp Thomas, Chickamauga Park, who testified as to the complaint of the Ninth Pennsylvania Regiment, that hospital tents were not properly supplied. Col. Lee explained his action in refusing to give them a private tent at Camp Thomas.

Gen. Connor, who returned yesterday from Boston, told the commission the testimony of Dr. Edward H. Bradford regarding Lieut. Tiffany. Dr. Bradford testified that Lieut. Tiffany arrived in Boston on the Olvestra, which was in charge of Major Appel. He had been furnished with a private tent and a boat with other troops, but by himself, he sailed for his brother, and started for the Parker House without him. Major Appel was much concerned because of Lieut. Tiffany's action, as he feared a relapse might occur. As a result was to communicate with that hotel by telephone. Dr. Bradford said that he had declined. He had made no complaint of his treatment on the boat. Nothing was heard of Lieut. Tiffany by Dr. Bradford until the report reached him of the serious illness of the officer. He did not see him after the meeting on Dec. 2.

On the examination was resumed, and he testified that the Quartermaster Department's efforts to arrange the hospitals at Camp Thomas. He acknowledged that while lumber had been supplied for the floors the Medical Department was called upon to do the work.

Dr. Connor was asked to do the work. The Quartermaster Department to the Quartermaster was never asked to do so.

Q.—But was it not your duty, irrespective of requests to do so? A.—I don't know that it was. The hospital corps men were looked upon to do that work.

Col. Lee, referring to complaints about Camp Thomas, said: "I don't know that few officers have been better treated. I think you gentlemen will agree with me that to issue material to weigh down the soldier and drain the public treasury is a wrong that should not be perpetuated. It is an act of Congress that places the disinfectant in the hands of the Medical Department. That includes lime."

Q.—How about transportation for the Medical Department? A.—No transportation was furnished.

Gen. Wilson inquired about the use of Camp Thomas as a hospital. Col. Lee said: "It was used for such purposes. I said Col. Lee. Q.—Did you issue them? A.—No, sir."

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## PORTO RICAN CONDITIONS.

People May Petition the President to Appoint a Statesman as Governor.

Special Cable Dispatch to THE SUN.

SAN JUAN, Porto Rico, Dec. 5.—The publication here of what purported to be a forecast of President McKinley's message to Congress, which stated that no action would be taken to establish self-government for the island for at least a year, resulted in bringing a number of persons to the streets. They gathered together on Saturday to discuss the situation.

The opinion was expressed that the laws are administered with little consideration for the business interests of the island, the desire being principally to collect taxes. This was evidenced by an attempt to collect the taxes of 1894 during the war. No crops were harvested during hostilities, owing to which fact there was no money with which to pay taxes. Eighty per cent of the real estate of the island was mortgaged, and the result of the attempt to collect the taxes was that much of this property was taken by Spaniards. The Spanish system, it is stated, is impossible. It is believed that there will be no change for the better until a change is made in the government.

It was suggested at the meeting that a memorial be prepared and sent to President McKinley, asking him to appoint as Governor, not a soldier, but a statesman, and that reasonable changes in the tariff and a reasonable time be given to those who are unable to pay before taking property for unpaid taxes.

A military government in Porto Rico is not so important to the friendly relations between the islanders and the Americans as a just administration of the civil affairs of the country by statesmen.

## TO PROTECT SOLDIERS IN CUBA.

A Board to Study British Sanitary Methods in Camps in Jamaica.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 5.—Lieut. Col. Robert M. O'Reilly, Chief Surgeon, U. S. V., who, with Lieut. Weston, U. S. A., has been directed to go to Jamaica to study sanitary methods of the British troops in the tropics, has received the following letter of instructions from the Surgeon-General:

"Six. In compliance with instructions contained in a letter from the Adjutant-General of the army, dated 2, 1898, you are expected to make a careful inquiry with reference to the methods now in use in the island of Jamaica for protecting soldiers of the British Army against the effects of malarial diseases and from the deleterious effects of climatic influences. You should ascertain, as far as practicable, the results attained by improved methods which have been adopted as a result of experience and full detail, as regards the housing, clothing and feeding of British soldiers in semi-tropical and tropical climates, and the methods of dealing with the effects of malarial diseases, camp diseases, dysentery, camp diarrhea and the malarial fevers. The measures of prophylaxis and treatment of these diseases should be fully investigated."

Special attention should be given to the question of the disposal of excreta and the disposal of the dead. The methods of dealing with the effects of malarial diseases, camp diseases, dysentery, camp diarrhea and the malarial fevers. The measures of prophylaxis and treatment of these diseases should be fully investigated."

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## CUBAN CUSTOMS SCHEME.

COMMISSIONER PORTER DOES NOT FAVOR SWEETING REDUCTIONS.

Mr. Porter Cables to the President Asking Delay in Action on the Proposed Tariff-Revenue Needed for Improvements.

Special Cable Dispatch to THE SUN.

SANTIAGO DE CUBA, Dec. 5.—Mr. Robert P. Porter, the special Revenue Commissioner appointed by President McKinley to investigate and report upon the situation in Cuba, sailed for New York, by way of Jamaica, on the steamer Admiral Sampson this morning. The steamer did not enter the harbor, Mr. Porter boarding her outside the Morro, despite the heavy sea that was running.

Before sailing Mr. Porter told the correspondent of THE SUN that he had cabled President McKinley asking him to delay action on the Cuban customs scheme, arranged by him before he came to Santiago, and that he intended to go to Washington. He said that his experience here had taught him that the proposed reductions in his tariff in certain directions were too sweeping, and if they were put into effect the Cuban revenue might fall short of the needs of the Government and entail upon the United States the necessity of supplying money to help out.

Gen. Wood does not think that sweeping reductions should be made at the present time. He cannot get the system of municipal and provincial taxation inaugurated before the first of next year, and he needs all the money that he can get to carry out the improvements. He said that he had already projected improvements and to make others, such as road building and sanitary works that the health of the province demands. He considers that the requests made by the Chamber of Commerce Committee in its recent memorial to Mr. Porter are out of all proportion to the needs of the country, and that changes in the tariff as were proposed by the committee are too radical to be made for some time.

It is safe to assume that the tariff originally proposed by Mr. Porter to President McKinley will not become operative. Concessions will be made in favor of sugar and tobacco planters who have experience and full detail, as regards the housing, clothing and feeding of British soldiers in semi-tropical and tropical climates, and the methods of dealing with the effects of malarial diseases, camp diseases, dysentery, camp diarrhea and the malarial fevers. The measures of prophylaxis and treatment of these diseases should be fully investigated."

Other industries will be helped some, but none will get all the concessions demanded. Col. Pettit of the Fourth Immunes, commanding the forces at Manzanillo, cabled to Col. Beacom, Adjutant-General of the department, that he had received many complaints from farmers and other residents of Santa Cruz del Sur, the place where the Cuban assembly recently met, of lawlessness and disorder. Santa Cruz is under the so-called Cuban Government. The place is full of stranded delegates to the Assembly, who are unable to get back to their homes. Col. Pettit's report says that their lives are safe. They asked him to send American troops to Santa Cruz to preserve order. Accusations of a grave character are made against delegates to the Assembly. Santa Cruz is the province of the United States, and therefore Gen. Wood has no legal jurisdiction over the place.

Col. Beacom thought that the emergency demanded immediate attention, however, and he has instructed Col. Pettit to give the relief asked for if the complaints come from a sufficient number of persons.

Gen. Wood is on his way to Gibara on the gunboat Hiet. A courier will be sent overland to acquaint him with the situation and get positive orders from him as to what is to be done to relieve the law-abiding residents of Santa Cruz.

Col. Hecker Back From Cuba.

The Island Likely to Be Americanized in a Few Months, He Says.

TAMPA, Fla., Dec. 5.—Col. Frank J. Hecker, Chief of Transportation of the War Department, Dr. W. F. Laine, of Philadelphia, physician to the American Expeditionary Force in Cuba; L. McK. Garrison, attorney to the commission, and Gen. E. C. O'Brien of New York are stopping at Tampa after a stormy passage from Havana on their way north. Col. Hecker visited Havana for the purpose of discussing the situation with the military authorities. He said that conditions had been greatly improved in many ways, and that the country was now in a state of peace and order. He said that the island was now in a state of peace and order. He said that the island was now in a state of peace and order.

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## PRESBYTERIAN UNION ON THE WAR.

Speakers at the Twelfth Annual Banquet Discuss Our Country's Future.

The Presbyterian Union, which is composed of 100 clergymen and 130 men and women of the laity, held its twelfth annual banquet at the Hotel Savoy last night. James Kernehan, the President, introduced the speakers.

The Rev. Dr. Wallace Haddiffe of Washington, in responding to the toast "A Word to Presbyterians," said this country had taken a mighty step forward as a result of the war with Spain.

"Our republic is no longer provincial, but is now cosmopolitan," he continued, "and is advancing along the eternal road of humanity from East and West, and will keep on advancing until the United States of Europe is spreading Christian civilization."

"Ours is a magnificent imperial expansion. The American is awakening to self-consciousness. He is beginning to be aware of himself as a nation, and is beginning to realize the importance of this year. He is not beavilling his fate that he was not born in London. The country has rapidly made glorious history, and the Presbyterians have had a hand in the making of it."

"America has run counter to some Old World power, and has had a great victory. We have been teaching a thing or two to other nations during the past year. The best we have done is to show them the history of wars the fulfillment of the injunction, 'If thine enemy hunger, feed him; if he be thirsty, give him to drink.'"